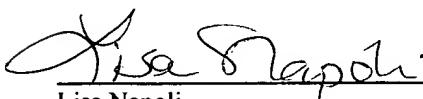


**SYSTEM AND METHOD OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL
CIRCUIT ANALYSIS USING SIMULATION TEMPLATES**

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SYSTEM AND METHOD OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL CIRCUIT ANALYSIS USING SIMULATION TEMPLATES

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to computer aided engineering (CAE), and in particular, to a simulation analysis template used to customize a SPICE-based netlist to provide additional circuit analysis.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The cost of designing and producing circuits is expensive. Accordingly, engineers need to ensure that their circuits operate according to their intended design. A number of computer applications have been developed which allow design engineers to simulate their circuits prior to actually incurring the cost of production. Some of these computer-aided engineering applications are based on "SPICE," which was first developed by the University of California at Berkeley and later refined by a number of institutions, including the Georgia Institute of Technology. The SPICE-based applications provide design engineers with the necessary tools to create, test, and simulate circuits on a computer.

A limitation of the SPICE-based application is that it provides a limited number of standard circuit analysis. Such standard analysis includes alternating current (ac) analysis, transient analysis, operating point analysis, direct current (DC) sweep analysis and others. Typically, these analysis are performed using nominal values for the parameters of the circuit design. Accordingly, for a designer to see the effects of parameter tolerance variation, typically the designer changes the parameter value and then runs a simulation. For complicated circuits, manually changing the parameter values is cumbersome and time-consuming, and is typically not practical. Furthermore, designers may also want statistical analysis of the desired circuit measurements based on parameter variations, such as, for example, sensitivity analysis, root summed square analysis, extreme value analysis and worst case analysis, to name of few. Such additional analysis are not available in SPICE-based applications. Other customizable analysis may also be desired which is also not available in SPICE-based applications.

In the prior art, some SPICE-based applications provide a parameter tolerance variations analysis called adjoint matrices. In the adjoint matrices technique, a simulation is performed and

a matrices is created which can characterize variations in the output vector measurements by mathematical equations. The mathematical equations model the output vector measurements based on parameter tolerance variations. However, this technique is typically not accurate and not stable. Mainly because the modeling equations do not take into account non-linear response
5 of the circuit components due to parameter tolerance variations. Thus, in addition for a need of additional analysis for SPICE-based applications, there is a need for analysis which provide more accurate and stable simulations when performing a parameter tolerance variation analysis.

Such needs are provided for by the invention described herein.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The methodology of the invention involves a simulation template which is used to modify a netlist that describes the circuit in order to provide customized or pre-installed analysis beyond the analysis available in standard SPICE. More specifically, a simulation template is an interactive command language (ICL) script that has embedded instructions telling a netlist where to insert information and which options are to be provided. It is used to expand SPICE beyond the traditional limitations of the basic alternating current (AC), direct current (DC), and transient analysis by allowing parameter variations and multiple simulation passes to be run under one analysis umbrella. Such additional analysis employing parameter variations and multiple analysis passes include sensitivity analysis, root summed square (RSS) analysis, extreme value analysis (EVA) and worst case by sensitivity (WCS), to name a few.
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One aspect of the invention is a method of modifying a SPICE netlist of a circuit design using a simulation template to perform a pre-determined analysis involving circuit parameter perturbations, comprising the steps of adding a perturbing routine to the netlist for altering circuit parameter values of the circuit design in a pre-determined manner; adding a simulation routine to the netlist for performing simulations of the circuit design for respective altered circuit parameter values to arrive at respective selected vector measurements; and adding an analysis routine to the netlist for manipulating at least one of the vector measurements in accordance with the pre-determined analysis. The method may include additional steps of adding tolerances in the netlist for the circuit parameters, removing parameter and vector save statements in the netlist, and
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30 adding a routine to the netlist to perform a reference simulation of the netlist to arrive at a nominal value for the selected vector measurement.

In addition, the pre-determined analysis can take numerous pre-installed forms or can be customized by a user. For instance, the pre-determined analysis may include a sensitivity analysis involving determining a difference between the respective selected vector measurements and the nominal selected vector measurement. The pre-determined analysis may also include a 5 root summed square analysis involving a sum of the square of the difference between the respective selected vector measurements and the nominal selected vector measurement. Additionally, the pre-determined analysis can include an extreme value analysis involving a determination of a maximum of the difference between the respective selected vector measurements and the nominal selected vector measurement when the circuit parameter values 10 are at their extreme tolerance values. Further, the pre-determined analysis can include a worst case by sensitivity analysis involving a maximum of an absolute value of the difference between the respective selected vector measurements and the nominal selected vector measurement.

Another aspect of the invention includes a computer readable medium having stored 15 therein a simulation template for modifying a SPICE netlist of a circuit design to perform a pre-determined analysis involving parameter perturbations, comprising a routine to add to the netlist for altering circuit parameter values of the circuit design in a pre-determined manner; a routine to add to the netlist for performing simulations of the circuit design for respective altered circuit parameter values to arrive at respective selected vector measurements; and a routine to add to the netlist for manipulating at least one of the vector measurements in accordance with the pre-determined analysis. As with the method, other commands (routines) can be included in the 20 simulation template to add tolerances in the netlist for the circuit parameters, to remove parameter and vector save statements in the netlist, and to add a routine to the netlist to perform a reference simulation of the netlist to arrive at a nominal value for the selected vector measurement. The simulation template may include user-customized analysis or pre-installed 25 analysis, such as sensitivity, RSS, EVA and WCS analysis, to name a few.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1A illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a computer system that can be used for simulation and analysis of circuit designs in accordance with the invention;

5 Figure 1B illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the computer used in a simulation and analysis circuit design computer in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 illustrates a flow diagram of an exemplary method of using a simulation template in accordance with the invention;

Figure 3 illustrates a flow diagram of an exemplary simulation template used to build a netlist that performs a sensitivity analysis on a proposed circuit design;

10 Figure 4 illustrates in more detail a preferred implementation of an ICL script of a simulation template that builds a netlist to perform a sensitivity analysis;

Figure 5A illustrates an exemplary schematic of a band pass filter used to illustrate how the simulation template modifies the circuit's standard netlist;

Figure 5B illustrates the standard netlist for the band pass filter shown in Figure 4;

15 Figure 6 illustrates a built netlist that has been modified in accordance with the sensitivity simulation template of Figure 3;

Figure 7 illustrates an exemplary output file for the sensitivity analysis performed in accordance with the built netlist of Figure 6;

20 Figure 8 illustrates a flow diagram of an exemplary simulation template that builds a netlist that performs a root summed square (RSS) analysis on a proposed circuit design;

Figure 9 illustrates a flow diagram of an exemplary simulation template that builds a netlist that performs an extreme value analysis (EVA) on a proposed circuit design; and

Figure 10 illustrates a flow diagram of an exemplary simulation template that builds a netlist that performs a worst case by sensitivity (WCS) analysis on a proposed circuit design.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figure 1A illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a computer system 100 that can be used for simulation and analysis of circuit designs in accordance with the invention. The system 100 preferably comprises a computer 102, a display 104, an input mechanism such as a keyboard 106 and/or a trackball or a mouse 108, and a printer 110. Figure 1B illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the computer 102 in which a processor 112 receives data from the input devices 106 and/or 108, and provides data to the display 104 and the printer 110. The computer 102 may also include a non-volatile storage medium for storing the program files for the SPICE-based application and simulation templates described herein, such as a floppy disk drive 114 and/or a 5 CD-ROM drive or hard disk drive 116 in communication with the processor 112. The processor 112 may also be in communication with a computer network via a network interface card (not shown). The computer 102 may include memory 118 connected to the processor 112. The term 10 “processor” as used herein refers to any hardware or circuitry for processing data, for example, a central processing unit (CPU).

15 The methodology of the invention involves a simulation template which is used to modify a netlist that describes the circuit in order to provide customized or pre-installed additional analysis. More specifically, a simulation template is an interactive command language (ICL) script that has embedded instructions telling a netlist where to insert information and which options are to be provided. It is used to expand SPICE beyond the traditional limitations 20 of the basic alternating current (AC), direct current (DC), and transient analysis by allowing parameter variations and multiple simulations passes to be run under one analysis umbrella. Such additional analysis employing parameter variations and multiple analysis passes include sensitivity analysis, root summed square (RSS) analysis, extreme value analysis (EVA) and worst case by sensitivity (WCS) analysis, to name a few.

25 Figure 2 illustrates a flow diagram of an exemplary method 200 of using a simulation template in accordance with the invention in order to provide additional circuit analysis involving parameter variations and multiple simulation passes. In a first step 202, a user builds a schematic using SPICE for a proposed circuit design. This step can be accomplished in many conventional ways, such as graphically or textually. In the next step 204, the user can either set 30 tolerances for the parameters of the proposed circuit design, or if tolerances are already set, the user may want to review them. Then in step 206, the user sets the desired vector measurements

for the simulation template analysis. This can be, for example, a voltage at a particular node, a current along a particular branch, and/or the power dissipation across a particular component. Since in the preferred embodiment, the simulation template operates on scalar measurements, in this step the user may specify a scalar type for each of the vector measurements. For example, 5 the user may specify a scalar such as the maximum, minimum, or mean value of the vector measurement, to name a few.

In a next step 208, the user selects the schematic configuration of the proposed circuit. A "configuration" is a unique set of schematic diagrams for the proposed circuit design typically tailored for a specific need. Some configurations may be tailored for production needs, others 10 may be tailored for component needs. Additional configurations can be of a closed loop type, an open loop type, and a safe to start type. These configurations are described in greater detail in co-pending Patent Application, Serial No. 08/925,121, filed on September 8, 1997, and entitled "Methods and Apparatus for Configuring Schematic Diagrams," which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes. Next, in step 210, the user specifies the simulation template analysis to be performed on the proposed circuit design. The simulation template analysis may be pre-installed into the SPICE program or may be uniquely specified by a user. Examples of simulation template analysis include sensitivity analysis, root summed square (RSS) analysis, 15 extreme value analysis (EVA) and worst case sensitivity (WCS) analysis.

Once the user has selected the desired simulation template analysis, in step 212 the ICL 20 script associated with the selected simulation template analysis is executed to build the netlist in order for the desired analysis to be performed. The ICL script has embedded instructions that tells the netlist where to insert information and which options are to be provided. For example, the ICL script may add tolerances to the parameters of the circuit design, the script may also add routines for varying the parameter values within the tolerance limits and perform a simulation 25 based on the altered parameter values, and/or the script may also add routines to perform different analysis of the simulations, such as perform a sensitivity, RSS, EVA and/or WCS analysis. Once the netlist is built, in step 214 the netlist is executed to perform the analysis in accordance with the simulation template. Then in step 216, the results may be outputted to the display 104 for the user to view.

30 Figure 3 illustrates a flow diagram of a simulation template 300 used to build a netlist that performs a sensitivity analysis on the proposed circuit design. In step 302, the simulation

template 300 includes a directive command that adds tolerances to the circuit parameters. Parameter tolerances is typically not present in the netlist prior to running the simulation template. Rather, only nominal values for the parameters are specified in the netlist. Parameter tolerances are used by the simulation template analysis to vary the parameter values within their
5 respective tolerance limits. In step 304, the simulation template 304 provides a directive command that suppresses the automatic parameter and vector saves that occur each time a normal netlist simulation is run. The purpose of step 304 is to save memory space since a vector measurement may comprise large amounts of data, which would require a substantial memory size if numerous simulations are performed in the simulation template analysis.

10 The next step 306 in the simulation template 300 is to include a command (routine) in the netlist that runs a reference simulation and stores the scalar values of the desired vector measurements. In the preferred embodiment, the reference simulation is merely a simulation with the parameter values at their nominal values. Next, the simulation template 300 adds a command (routine) 308 to the netlist to vary each parameter value, preferably one parameter
15 value at a time. The parameter values may be varied in numerous ways, such as varying the parameter value according to a pre-specified standard deviation. In step 310, the simulation template 300 adds a command (routine) to the netlist to run a simulation each time a parameter is varied and to store the scalar values of the desired vector measurements. Typically steps 308 and 310 are set within a program loop to cause the program to successively vary each of the
20 parameters and to perform a simulation each time a parameter is varied. Each time a parameter is varied and a simulation occurs which results in at least one vector measurement is termed herein as a “plot.”

25 In step 312, the simulation template 300 adds a command (routine) to the netlist to calculate the sensitivity of each of the vector measurements for each plot. The sensitivity is the vector measurement calculated when a parameter value is varied from nominal minus the vector measurement when the parameter value is nominal. The sensitivity measurement is typically set within a loop to successively calculate the sensitivity for the desired vector measurements chosen. If additional analysis beyond sensitivity, such as performing an RSS, EVA and/or WCS analysis, is desired, in step 314, the simulation template 300 adds additional command (routines)
30 to the netlist for performing the selected additional analysis. Then in step 316, the simulation template 316 adds a command (routine) to the netlist to output the results to the display 104, the

printer 110, and/or a file. The user can now review the results of the sensitivity analysis or other analysis specified in the simulation template.

Figure 4 illustrates in more detail a preferred implementation of an ICL script of a simulation template 400 that builds a netlist to perform a sensitivity analysis. In step 402, the simulation template 400 includes a “#tolerance” directive that adds tolerances to the parameters in the netlist that have tolerances associated with them. In step 404, the simulation template 400 includes a “#nosave” directive that suppresses the normal parameter and vector saves that occurs when a simulation is run. The purpose of step 404 is to reduce memory required to perform the simulation template analysis, since an individual vector may comprise many data, and thus saving them each time a simulation is run would take up lots of memory space. In step 406, the simulation template 400 includes “#noprint” directive to suppress the print statements in the regular netlist, since the simulation template 400 includes its own output printing routine which is customized for the analysis being performed.

In step 408, the simulation template 400 includes a “#vector” directive to cause the netlist to generate save commands for the selected scalar of the selected vector measurements. For example, if the selected scalar of the vector measurement is the mean value for a voltage at node 2 (i.e. V(2)), then the “#vector” directive generates the commands for saving the mean value of V(2). In step 410, the simulation template 400 adds a “set rewind” command to the netlist to set the output file pointer to the beginning to remove the input netlist. A regular simulation of the proposed circuit produces an echo of the netlist in the output file. The “set rewind” removes the input netlist from the output file. In step 412, the simulation template 400 adds a “set noecho” command to the netlist to suppress writing to an output file when a reference simulation is later executed.

Then in step 414, the simulation template 400 adds a “#simulation” directive, a “set printmode = save” command, and a “#mprint” directive to the netlist so that a reference simulation (preferably a simulation using nominal values for the circuit parameters) is run and the resulting scalars of the selected vector measurements are saved. More specifically, the “#simulation” directive causes the simulation of the circuit, the “set printmode = save” command causes the vector measurements to be saved, rather than printed, and the “#mprint” directive creates the print commands for each of the selected vector measurements. In step 416, the simulation template 416 adds a “nameplot ref” command to the netlist to assign the variable

“ref” to the simulation plot. In step 418, the simulation template 400 adds some print format commands to the netlist to format the printing of the output results. In step 420, the simulation template 400 adds a “printstatus . . . “ command to the netlist so that it outputs a message to the user that sensitivity analysis for each of parameter is being performed.

5 In step 422, the simulation template 400 adds a series of commands (routine) to the netlist to vary each parameter having tolerances associated with it, to run a simulation each time a parameter is varied and store the scalars of the selected vector measurements (i.e. a plot), and to calculate the sensitivity of the vector measurements each time a parameter is varied. The step 422 comprises an outer loop that selects each of the parameters for variation, and an inner loop
10 that calculates the sensitivity of each of the selected vector measurements for the parameter that is being varied. In step 424, the simulation template 400 adds a series of commands (routine) to the netlist to enable the print commands and to reformat the sensitivity data so that it is more understandable to the user, such as to output the sensitivity in percentage form.

15 In step 426, the simulation template 400 adds a series of commands (routine) to the netlist to sort the sensitivity data from high to low. In step 428, the simulation template adds a series of commands (routine) to the netlist to output the sensitivity results to the display. Step 428 loops through each of the parameters by adding headers to the output, sorting the sensitivity data in descending order, and looping through the printing of each of the vectors. In step 430, the sensitivity data is printed to an output file.

20 Figure 5A illustrates an exemplary schematic of a band pass filter 500A used to illustrate how the simulation template modifies the circuit’s standard netlist to provide the sensitivity analysis previously discussed. The band pass filter 500 comprises an operational amplifier LM324, resistors R1, R2 and R5, capacitors C3 and C4, and voltage sources V1, V2 and V3.

25 Figure 5B illustrates a standard netlist 500 for the band pass filter 500A shown in Figure 5A. The standard netlist 500B may include a plurality of “#*save” statements 502 for saving parameter values and vector measurements each time a simulation is run. The standard netlist 500B may also include other standard commands 504 such as “#alias v_4 v(4)” which assigns another name v_4 to variable v(4), and “#view” which causes the graphical representation of the transient of voltage v_4 to be displayed. Other standard SPICE commands and/or options are
30 available to the user, which are known to those skilled in the art. The standard netlist 500 may also include “.command” statements 506 which are used for a variety of functions, such as the

“.TRAN .05 ms 20ms” statement which causes a transient analysis to be performed on the proposed circuit design. In addition, the “.PRINT” command causes the specified vector measurements to be displayed. Other dot-commands and/or options are available to the user, which are known to those skilled in the relevant art. The standard netlist 500B finally includes 5 the circuit description section 508 which describes the proposed circuit design.

Figure 6 illustrates a built netlist 600 that has been modified in accordance with the sensitivity simulation template 400 previously described. As the built netlist 600 illustrates, circuit description section 632 of the band pass filter has been modified to include tolerance information for the listed parameters. This is the result of the “#tolerance” directive of the 10 sensitivity simulation template 400. Also, in the built netlist 600, the automatic save statements (i.e. *#save) that were present in the standard netlist 500 has been removed by the “#nosave” directive of the simulation template 400. The save vector directive “#vector” adds the statement “save v(4)” 608 to the built netlist 600 to cause the saving of the selected vector measurement, which in this example is the voltage at node 4.

15 The sensitivity simulation template 400 then adds the rest of the commands (routine) to run the analysis as previously discussed, such as the “set rewind” command 610; the “set noecho” command 612; the commands (routine) 614 for running and executing a reference simulation; the “nameplot ref” command 616 for saving vector measurement in a data structure named “ref”; the “printstatus” command 620 for displaying a message on the display; the 20 commands (routine) 622 for altering the parameter values, running a simulation for each altered parameter (i.e. plot), and for calculating the sensitivity of the vector measurements; the commands (routine) 624 to enable the print commands and to reformat the sensitivity data; the commands (routine) 626 to sort the sensitivity data in descending order; commands (routine) 628 to print the output of the sensitivity results to the display screen; and commands (routine) 630 to 25 print the sensitivity data to an output file.

Figure 7 illustrates an exemplary output file 700 for the sensitivity analysis performed in accordance with the built netlist 600. For each of the parameters having tolerances, the output file 700 lists the name of the parameter, its nominal value, the scalar (e.g. mean) value the vector (e.g. v(4)) that is being measured, and the sensitivity in percentage of the selected vector based 30 on the variation of the corresponding parameter. In the example, the sensitivity of mean of voltage v(4) is calculated for variations in resistor r5, resistor r2, capacitor c4, resistor r1, and

capacitor c3. After the list, the output file 700 includes the nominal value for the selected scalar (e.g. mean v(4)) is outputted along with the run time, the memory remaining, and the memory used.

Figure 8 illustrates a flow diagram of an exemplary simulation template 800 that builds a netlist that performs a root summed square (RSS) analysis on a proposed circuit design. In the RSS analysis, after running a reference simulation, each of the parameter having tolerances are perturbed and a simulation is performed each time a vector is perturbed. This results in a number of simulations equal to the number of parameters that have tolerances. Then the sensitivity of each of the measurements is squared and summed together. The square root of the sum is then taken and the results are saved in a plot called "rss." Mathematically, the result for a single measurement is:

$$V_{result} = \text{sqrt}(\sum (V_{result}(\text{param}) - V_{result}(\text{nominal}))^2)$$

Since the RSS simulation template 800 is similar to the sensitivity simulation template 400, command(s) (routines) that are the same are identified with the same reference numbers, except that their most significant digit is an "8" instead of a "4." The detail discussion of these commands (routine) is provided above with reference to the sensitivity simulation template. If the commands (routine) are modified slightly, a prime (') is added to the reference numbers.

After adding a sensitivity analysis to the netlist in commands (routine) 822, the RSS simulation template 800 adds commands (routine) 832 to the netlist to create and set active a new plot for the RSS data, and initialize the scalar data for the rss plot to zero. Then, the RSS simulation template 800 adds commands (routine) 826' to the netlist to cause a message that the rss is being computed to be displayed. After this, the RSS simulation template 800 adds commands (routine) 828' to the netlist to print the sensitivity, and calculate and print the rss data for each parameter having tolerances (i.e. plot). The RSS sensitivity template 800 then adds commands (routine) 834 to the netlist to calculate and print high and low values of the RSS data for each parameter having tolerances (i.e. plot).

Figure 9 illustrates a flow diagram of an exemplary simulation template 900 that builds a netlist that performs an extreme value analysis (EVA) on the proposed circuit design. In the EVA analysis, the parameter values are altered to its extreme value in a manner that maximizes the selected scalar of the desired vector measurement(s). The simulation is then run with those

new parameter values that should maximize the scalar measurement value and the result for the measurement is saved in a “evahi” plot. The process is repeated for each measurement and when all the simulations are completed, the measurements are printed to an output file. Since the EVA simulation template 900 is similar to the sensitivity simulation template 400, command(s) 5 (routines) that are the same are identified with the same reference numbers, except that their most significant digit is an “9” instead of a “4.” The detail discussion of these commands is provided above with reference to the sensitivity simulation template. If the commands (routine) are modified slightly, a prime (‘) is added to the reference numbers.

As discussed above, the EVA simulation template 900 adds to the netlist a command 10 (routine) 932 to create a new plot “evahi” to save the EVA data. In the sensitivity analysis commands (routine) 922’, the parameter tolerances and parameter values are saved in variables “paramtol” and “paramval.” After adding a sensitivity analysis to the netlist in commands 15 (routine) 922’, the EVA simulation template 900 adds commands (routine) 934 to the netlist to change the parameter values to either their positive or negative extreme value within their tolerances which maximizes the selected scalar of the desired vector measurements, and stores the data. Then, the EVA simulation template 900 adds commands (routine) 936 to the netlist to print out the parameter name, nominal value, and tolerances, with corresponding headings to the output file. The EVA simulation template 900 then adds commands (routine) 938 to the netlist 20 to calculate the percent change between the extreme value and the nominal value of the selected scalar measurement(s). Next, the EVA simulation template 900 adds commands (routine) 940 to the netlist to print to the output file, the name(s) of the selected scalar measurement, the nominal value(s) of the selected scalar measurement, and the extreme value of the selected scalar measurement(s), and the percent change between the extreme value and the nominal value of the selected scalar measurement(s).

25 Figure 10 illustrates a flow diagram of an exemplary simulation template 1000 that builds a netlist that performs a worse case by sensitivity (WCS) analysis on the proposed circuit design. In the WCA analysis, a reference simulation is run and the selected scalar measurement saved. Then, a sensitivity analysis is performed and the measurements saved. The absolute value of the difference measurements are summed and saved in a plot named “result” and printed to an output 30 file. Since the WCS simulation template 1000 is similar to the sensitivity simulation template 400, commands (routine) that are the same are identified with the same reference numbers,

except that their most significant digit is an "10" instead of a "4." The detail discussion of these commands (routine) is provided above with reference to the sensitivity simulation template. If the commands (routine) are modified slightly, a prime (') is added to the reference numbers.

As discussed above, the WCS simulation template 1000 adds to the netlist a command 5 (routine) 1032 to create a new plot "result" to save the WCS data, and a command (routine) 1034 to set the reference plot "ref" current prior to performing the sensitivity analysis. In the sensitivity analysis commands (routine) 1022', the worst case high value of the absolute sensitivity is saved in the "result." After adding the sensitivity analysis to the netlist in commands (routine) 1022', the WCS simulation template 1000 adds commands (routine) 1036 to 10 the netlist to print out the parameter name, nominal value, and tolerances, with corresponding headings to the output file. The WCS simulation template 1000 then adds commands (routine) 1038 to the netlist to calculate the percent change between the worst case value and the nominal value of the selected scalar measurement(s). Next, the WCS simulation template 1000 adds commands (routine) 1040 to the netlist to print to the output file, the name(s) of the selected 15 scalar measurement, the nominal value(s) of the selected scalar measurement, the worse case value of the selected scalar measurement(s), and the percent change between the worst case value and the nominal value of the selected scalar measurement(s).

The sensitivity, RSS, EVA and WCS simulation templates are merely examples of simulation templates that can be used to modify a standard SPICE netlist to perform additional 20 analysis involving parameter perturbations and multiple run analysis. In view of the teachings of this patent applications, those skilled in the art could create numerous simulation templates that can modify netlist to perform different analysis on proposed circuit designs.

While the invention has been described in connection with various embodiments, it will be understood that the invention is capable of further modifications. This application is intended 25 to cover any variations, uses or adaptation of the invention following, in general, the principles of the invention, and including such departures from the present disclosure as come within known and customary practice within the art to which the invention pertains.